

JOHN DEERE HOME AND SHOP

Near Grand Detour

From 1836 to 1847 the small village of Grand Detour was home to John Deere, a skilled blacksmith who invented and manufactured a steel plow that could scour the tough prairie sod with a clean furrow, unlike other plows that quickly became clogged in the rich but sticky soil. Deere's farm implement made intensive cultivation of the Midwestern prairie possible. His house and a reconstruction of the blacksmith shop are maintained by the John Deere Foundation as a historic monument.